

Rainier Agility Team (RAT)

Membership Policy

MEMBERSHIP TYPES

- Individual Membership: One vote at club meetings
- Family Membership: Up to two votes at club meetings. Family members must be related or living in the same household.

1. PROCESS TO BECOME A NEW MEMBER

- **Application:** Get sponsor, complete membership application. Mail the application and dues to the Membership Committee or bring it to your first meeting and give it to the Membership Committee or the President, who will forward it to the Membership Committee. New applicants are encouraged to hand-deliver their application at a meeting to expedite the entire application process and meet club members.
- **Introduction:** This is a two-pronged process. (1) The applicant will be introduced to club members at the first meeting they attend following receipt of the completed application and dues. (2) The applicant's information will be published in RAT Tales and/or club internet list.
- **Confirmation:** Following publication of the applicant's information, RAT Members will have 30 days to submit a written objection to the Board. If there are no objections within 30 days, the applicant automatically becomes a member and will have *gifted* Member In Good Standing (MIGS) status and be eligible for all of the benefits of a MIGS, except for the right to vote. Once the applicant has volunteered at two events they will have the right to vote.

2. EXPECTATIONS OF NEW MEMBERS

RAT encourages new members to get involved with the club right away by attending meetings, helping at events, and contributing to the many standing committees available. Use your particular skills to help the club in any way you can. Working at events can range from being a leash runner to being a chief ring steward. If you are new to agility, ask your sponsor for advice on what jobs to volunteer for at events.

One reason new members are encouraged to get involved in club meetings and events during their first year is that members must meet a minimum meeting and service requirement to keep MIGS status after the first year. These requirements are outlined below.

3. RETAINING MIGS STATUS AFTER THE FIRST YEAR

A RAT member is a MIGS if she/he has fulfilled the minimum service and meeting requirements outlined below in the previous 12-month period.

The Meeting Requirement

Members must attend one Club meeting (other than the Holiday Banquet) during each 12-month period. To facilitate participation from all Club members, the dates and times of meetings should be

published at least four months in advance. In addition, meetings will be held on different days and at different times throughout the year. Even with these arrangements, we recognize that other obligations may prevent some members from attending one meeting during a 12-month period. In special circumstances, members may petition the Board in writing for a waiver of the meeting requirement.

The Service Requirement

RAT is a working club. All members are expected to work at club-sponsored events. To make a "substantial contribution" a member shall work at a minimum of 2 RAT-sponsored events during each 12-month period. All of the following are examples of ways to "work at an event":

- serve on the Organizing Committee
- haul equipment/ trailers
- work at the registration desk
- help with food preparation and organization
- work as a course builder or scorekeeper
- work as ring crew
- assist with setup and/or teardown of equipment
- arrange a RAT sponsored seminar

Note: Members who are physically unable to work at an event may petition the Board in writing to substitute another club-related activity.

4. BENEFITS OF BEING A MIGS

All members (Individual and Family) can participate in all events sponsored or cosponsored by RAT and attend general RAT meetings. All members will receive the club newsletter, RAT Tales. In addition, all Individual and Family Members may attend club-sponsored practices, subject to the Practice Guidelines.

MIGS, however, are entitled to the following additional privileges:

- Discount on RAT-sponsored events.
- Priority admission to club-sponsored seminars and events (if permitted by the governing organization).
- Right to vote at all meetings of the Club. Note that new members do not get voting privileges until they have satisfied the requirements to become a MIGS.

What happens if someone does not meet the above requirements to be a MIGS?

A RAT member who does not fulfill the meeting and service requirements loses MIGS status but is still a member of the club as long as dues are paid. Thus, this member will still receive RAT Tales, still be welcomed at meetings and RAT-events, and still be able to attend RAT practices. MIGS status can always be regained by fulfilling the requirements outlined above.

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